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Montana Agribusiness Resource Directory

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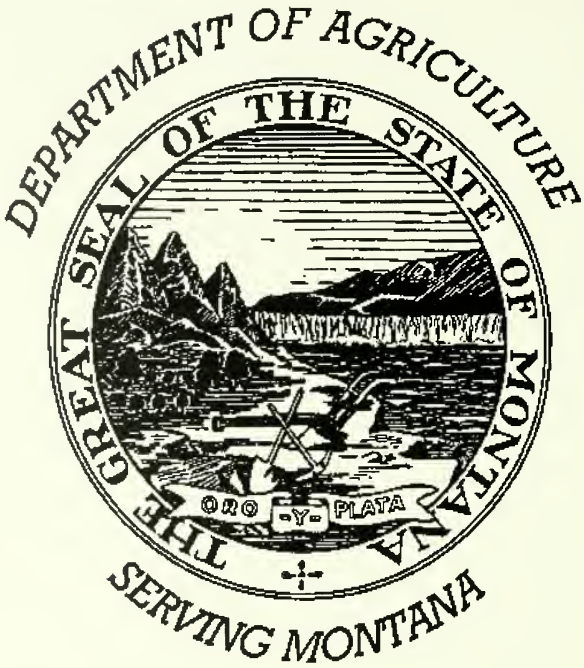

This publication is a listing of Montana agricultural products suppliers. The listing does not constitute an endorsement by the Montana Department of Agriculture of any supplier listed. An independent check is recommended prior to any business arrangement considered.

This publication should not be considered as a complete listing of Montana agricultural producers, processors, or manufacturers since only those responding and agreeing to publication are included.

Unlisted firms who wish to be included in any future edition of this publication should contact the Agricultural Development Division of the Montana Department of Agriculture, PO Box 200201, Helena, MT 59620-0201.

Montana Agribusiness Resource Directory

A Directory of Montana Agricultural Businesses

Published 2003
by the
Montana Department of Agriculture

For further information, contact:
Agricultural Development Division
Agriculture Marketing & Business Development Bureau
PO Box 200201
Helena, MT U.S.A. 59620-0201
(406) 444-2402

From the Governor

Montana is known for our wide-open spaces and the beautiful expanse of the "Big Sky". Montana also has an ideal climate for many agricultural enterprises. Producers of Montana's bounty require the services of individuals in all aspects of agriculture in order to be successful. The Montana Agribusiness Resource Directory provides a resource that links agricultural producers and those individuals buying, manufacturing, or selling the products that keep the day-to-day operations of farming and ranching flowing smoothly.

The companies listed in the Agribusiness Resource Directory have the capabilities to supply high-quality products and services, both needed and desired by other businesses, our agricultural industry, and the public consumer.

This Agribusiness Resource Directory is an important tool to promote and facilitate agricultural trade which is so important to the well being of Montana's economy.

JUDY MARTZ
Governor

From the Director

Agriculture is Montana's largest industry and its economic foundation. This directory includes Montana agricultural business owners who produce or supply Montana products. We are proud of these businesses as they expand Montana's economic base.

The Montana Department of Agriculture is pleased to do all we can to assist our industry and businesses as they are key to our future. Our marketing staff can provide valuable assistance to both buyers and sellers as you develop new or expand existing markets.

You may have noticed the grassland image we used as a part of this directory's logo. Just as grass is a resource for livestock producers and grains are a resource for our crop producers, we hope this directory will serve as a resource for farmers, ranchers, and agricultural businesses.

Thank you for your interest in Montana. We hope that this "Agribusiness Resource Directory" will assist you in contacting suppliers of premium Montana products.

Ralph

Ralph Peck
Director

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Agricultural Organizations

AERO (Alternative Energy Resources Organization)
Jonda Crosby
432 N Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 406-443-7272
Fax: 406-442-9120
E-mail: aero@aeromt.org
Nonprofit organization dedicated to sustainable resource use and rural community vitality. As a grassroots, member-driven organization, AERO promotes community self-reliance through sustainable agriculture and regional food economies, environmental quality, renewable energy and conservation.

Agriculture in Montana Schools
Margie Thompson
7950 Birdtail Rd
Wolf Creek, MT 59648
Phone: 406-562-3562
Fax: 406-562-3562
E-mail: mvbaker@3rivers.net
Website: www.agr.state.mt.us
Provides educational materials about agriculture and the food and fiber system, to Montana teachers and students. AMS sponsors bumper sticker, essay contest and teacher workshops.

Ethanol Producers & Consumers
Shirley Ball
S Rte Box 206
Nashua, MT 59248
Phone: 406-785-3722
Fax: 406-785-2252
E-mail: shirley@ethanolmt.org
Website: www.ethanolmt.org
EPAC is a non-profit organization with international membership, whose members support increased production and use of clean renewable ethanol fuel.

Havre Area Chamber of Commerce
Debbie Vandebera
PO Box 3081, 518 1st Street
Havre, MT 59501-0308
Phone: 406-265-4383
Fax: 406-265-7748
E-mail: chamber@havremt.com
Website: www.havremt.com

Montana Agricultural Business Association
Pam Langley
1806 Capitol
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 406-449-7391
Fax: 406-449-7429
E-mail: mabamgea@attbi.com
Website: www.mtagbiz.org

Montana Agri-Women
Sig Greytak
2051 Andromeda Ln
Billings, MT 59105
Phone: 406-248-5495
Fax: 406-248-1606
E-mail: sig@mcn.net
Website: www.mtagriwomen.org
Non-commodity specific organization, an affiliate of American Agri-Women, whose mission statement is to influence positive perceptions of agriculture.

Montana Alfalfa Seed Growers Association
Teddi Whitmer, Secretary
12 Rd 515
Bloomfield, MT 59315
Phone: 406-583-7717
E-mail: teddiw@midrivers.com
MASGA is an organization dedicated to the support of the alfalfa seed and leafcutting bee industry in Montana.

Montana Angus Association
Lindsay Williams
PO Box 1296
Columbus, MT 59019
Phone: 406-322-9044
Fax: 406-322-9044
E-mail: montanaangus@msn.com
Website: www.mtangus.org
There are more than 450 members in the Montana Angus Association (MAA) that market and promote Montana Angus cattle through the association magazine "The Montana Angus News," trade shows, sales, internet and more. The MAA is proud to lead all states in Angus cattle registrations and transfers.

Montana Council of Cooperatives
Walter Coffman, Executive Secretary
2250 8th Ln NE
Dutton, MT 59433-9616
Phone: 406-753-2296
888-576-2296
Fax: 406-753-2296
E-mail: mtcocoop@3rivers.net
Website: www.mtcocoop.org and www.mtcocoop.coop
Statewide organization of all types of cooperatives. Emphasizes promotion and education of cooperative business models, also performs legislative lobbying for all cooperative types.

Montana Dairy Association
Bob Gilbert
PO Box 1693
Helena, MT 59624
Phone: 406-442-1330
Fax: 406-449-8606
MDA represents Montana dairy producers and is affiliated with National Milk Producers Federation.

Montana Farm Bureau Federation
Jake Cummins
502 S 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718
Phone: 406-587-3153
Fax: 406-587-0319
E-mail: dianaa@mfbf.org
Website: www.mfbf.org

Montana Farmers Union
Brooks Dailey
PO Box 2447
Great Falls, MT 59403-2447
Phone: 406-452-6406
E-mail: mfu@initco.net
Website:
www.montanafarmersunion.com
Grassroots organization working for family farmers, ranchers and rural communities through conferences, scholarships and other educational opportunities as well as legislative representation and support for producer-owned co-ops.

Montana Grain Elevators Association
Pam Langley
1806 Capitol St
Helena, MT 59601-4714
Phone: 406-449-7891
Fax: 406-449-7429
E-mail: mabamgea@attbi.com
Website: www.mtaagbiz.org

Montana Grain Growers Association
Richard Owen
PO Box 1165
Great Falls, MT 59403-1165
Phone: 406-761-4596
Fax: 406-761-4606
E-mail: rtowen@mgga.org
Website: www.mgga.org
Trade assocation representing wheat and barley producers in the state.

Montana Land Reliance
Candace Durran
PO Box 355
Helena, MT 59624
Phone: 406-443-7077
Fax: 406-443-7061
E-mail: info@mtlandreliance.org
Website: www.mtlandreliance.org
Other Locations: Billings, Bigfork
The Montana Land Reliance is the only Montana based statewide land trust. We are non-profit, non-partisan and committed to helping Montana farmers and ranchers find long-term solutions to their unique land use and estate planning challenges.

Montana Nursery and Landscape Association
Robin Childers, CAE
Executive Director
PO Box 4553
Missoula, MT 59806-4553
Phone: 888-220-1569
406-251-5232
Fax: 406-251-5270
E-mail: man@montana.com
Website: plantingmontana.com
Professional association of nurseries, greenhouses, horticultural service, landscape contractors/designer/architects, arborists, and horticultural suppliers. We provide education, advocacy, and networking opportunities.

Montana Salinity Control Association
Jane Holzer or Scott Brown
PO Box 909
Conrad, MT 59425
Phone: 406-278-3071
Fax: 406-278-3071
E-mail: msca@3rivers.net
Satellite program of MT's conservation districts. The MSCA technical field team conducts a shallow ground water assessment to develop saline reclamation plans. Once an assessment identifies the recharge area to specific saline areas, the land is eligible for USDA program cost-share incentives to offset the cost of reclamation.

Montana State Grange
Marty Billquist
5980 Galen Rd
Anaconda, MT 59711
Phone: 406-563-7891
Fax: 406-563-2317
E-mail: Jbilquist@in-tch.com

Montana Stockgrowers Association
Steven L. Pilcher
420 N California
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 406-442-3420
E-mail: msga@mtbeef.org
Website: www.mtbeef.org
Founded in 1884, MSGA's mission is to champion Montana ranching by protecting and advancing the economic, political, environmental and cultural interests of the beef cattle industry in Montana.

Montana Water Resources Association
Mike Murphy
PO Box 4927
Helena, MT 59604
Phone: 406-232-4555
Fax: 406-235-4555

Montana Wool Growers Association
Bob Gilbert
PO Box 1693
Helena, MT 59624
Phone: 406-442-1330
Fax: 406-449-8606
Website: www.mtsheep.org
Trade organization representing Montana sheep producers. Affiliated with American Sheep Industry Association.

Women Involved in Farm Economics
Mary Ann Murray
HC 69 Box 15
Jordan, MT 59337
Phone: 406-557-2400
Fax: 406-557-2402
E-mail: lige@midrivers.com

Apiary Supplies

Bee's Best Apiary
John Barrow
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Fort Shaw, MT 59443
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Christmas Trees

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PO Box 10242
Bozeman, MT 59719
Phone: 406-587-3406
Fax: 406-587-2567
E-mail: jcashman@montanadsl.net
Retail garden center and landscaper.

Marchie's Nursery
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Fax: 406-656-3489

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1115 Martz Rd
Arlee, MT 59821
Phone: 406-726-3740
E-mail: apples@blackfoot.net
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Homesteader's Ranch & Feed Supply
Jamie Brebiyer
1745 Hwy 2 W
Libby, MT 59923
Phone: 406-293-4911
Fax: 406-293-7010
E-mail: homesteaders@libby.com

Acquiron Property & Business Resources
Ray Peterson
81 W Park St, PO Box 748
Butte, MT 59703
Phone: 406-782-0451
Fax: 406-782-1819
E-mail: rep@azworld.com
Other Locations: Helena

Alpine Analytical Inc.
Harry Howell
1315 Cherry Ave
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 800-814-6282
406-449-6282
Fax: 406- 449-1390
E-mail: alpine@ixi.net
Website: alpineanalytical.com
Performs laboratory analysis within 1 week for most analyses with same day service possible at additional charge.

Anderson Auction
John Anderson
515 Fish Trap Rd
Wise River, MT 59762
Phone: 406-689-3618
Fax: 406-689-3659
E-mail: wdm3659@montana.com
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Aquatic Design & Construction, Inc.
Russell F. Smith
PO Box 582
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: 406-222-7600
406-581-1258
Fax: 406-222-7677
E-mail:
info@aquaticdesignandconstruction.com
Website:
www.aquaticdesignandconstruction.com
ADC specializes in fish, waterfowl and wetland habitat enhancement. We also provide native reclamation and revegetation services.

B & B Enterprises
Ross (Buck) Buchanan
PO Box 122
Valier, MT 59486
Phone: 406-279-3323
E-mail: glastor@3rivers.net

B & C Ag Consultants
Ray Choriki
315 S 26th St
Billings, MT 59101
Phone: 406-259-5779
Fax: 406-259-1038
E-mail: mdchoriki@aol.com
Soil sampling, laboratory facilities for soils, feeds, water, research, G.P.S. sampling with zone mapping, etc.

Bitterroot Research
Gary Evans
170 S 2nd St
Hamilton, MT 59840
Phone: 406-363-4408
406-369-1470
Fax: 406-363-4408
Real estate research and mapping. Research public records for update of abstracts, water rights and mapping properties.

Bitterroot Restoration, Inc.
Leonard Ballek, Vice President
445 Quast Ln
Corvallis, MT 59828
Phone: 406-961-4991 x 26
Fax: 406-961-4626
E-mail:
len@bitterrootrestoration.com
Website:
www.bitterrootrestoration.com
Bitterroot Restoration, Inc. was founded in 1986 to provide comprehensive restoration services to managers of disturbed lands. We provide a full range of services, including restoration planning, and native plant propagation.

Burow's Auction Service Inc.
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Jeff Farkell
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Brady, MT 59416
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406-476-3312
E-mail: bugman@3rivers.net
Other Locations: Dutton
Provide field monitoring, input recommendations (crop protection), soil sampling and recommendations, farm mapping.

Dan Humphrey Consulting Arborist
Dan Humphrey
460 Wyant Ln
Hamilton, MT 59840
Phone: 406-363-6154
Fax: 406-363-6154
Consulting arborists, greenhouse, landscape, gardening and sprinkler system supplies.

Dr. John Lacey
PO Box 534
Glasgow, MT 59230
Phone: 406-228-8128
E-mail: lacey@nemontel.net
Dr. Lacey has the ability and experience to evaluate carrying capacities, rangeland health and trends, establish monitoring programs, develop ranch management plans, evaluate allotment management plans and other land resource plans prepared by land management agencies.

Earth Systems
Robin Evans, Scott Gillilan
613 W Lamme St
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-582-0660
Fax: 406-582-1226
E-mail: earthsystems@mcn.net
Earth Systems works with livestock and dairy producers on innovative manure management solutions, including manufacturing high quality compost for use in landscaping, farming and land reclamation.

Fire Logistics, Inc.
Bruce Suenram
PMB 2164 Jackson Cr
Montana City, MT 59634
Phone: 406-449-9761
Fax: 406-449-9768
E-mail: bsuenram@firelogistics.com
Website: www.firelogistics.com
Fire protections consulting service, fire management planning, prescribed fire, burn planning, etc.

Hall & Hall Inc.
Wes Oja
PO Box 81490
Billings, MT 59108
Phone: 406-656-7500
Fax: 406-656-7550
E-mail: info@hallhall.com
Website: www.hallhall.com
Other Locations: Bozeman, Missoula
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Harriman Trout Co.
Alan Harriman
9615 Fish Hatchery Rd
St. Ignatius, MT 59865
Phone: 406-745-3317
406-745-4355
Fax: 406-745-3317
E-mail: sti3317@blackfoot.net
Provide live fish of all sizes for private pond stocking. Representative to Montana Aquaculture Association. Provide consulting for private pond construction and stocking.

Heritage Productions
Tana Canon
201 Olmstead Ln
Glendive, MT 59330
Phone: 406-377-7636
406-939-1890
E-mail: canen@midrivers.com
Video production, digital videography, business/family/farm/ ranch histories, promotional videos.

High Country Agricultural Marketing Inc.
Larry Feight
PO Box 82
Whitehall, MT 59759
Phone: 800-777-9960
406-287-5151
Fax: 406-287-3088
E-mail: ucus4shox@in-tch.com
HC primarily markets ag products to end-user's dealers. It is also involved in design and consulting of electric (power) fences for all types of animals and situations.

James Humphrey Agency
James A. Humphrey
PO Box 1966
Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: 406-452-7312
E-mail: jhagency1@hotmail.com
Farmland manager acting on behalf of landlords. Real estate broker and legal mediator.

Land & Cattle Management and Appraisal Services
Ronald Johnson
310 E Sebree St
Dillon, MT 59725
Phone: 406-683-6113
406-660-6113
Fax: 406-683-6747
E-mail: ronwjohn@mcn.net
Ronald W. Johnson is a certified general appraiser for the State of Montana, a real estate broker, a financial management consultant, and a ranch management consultant.

Les Graham Consulting & Insurance
Les Graham
3000 Sales Rd
Belgrade, MT 59714
Phone: 406-284-3502
406-586-3351
Fax: 406-284-3502

Markle's Inc.
Tom Markle
Box 71
Glasgow, MT 59230
Phone: 406-228-9341
406-228-9365
Fax: 406-228-9368

Marty Connell Agriculture & Business Financial Management, Inc.
Marty Connell
PO Box 1397
Billings, MT 59103-1397
Phone: 406-252-4745
406-252-3153
Fax: 406-252-6424
E-mail: mconnell@mconnell.com

Montana Auction Co Inc.
Bill Metzger, President
3150 Cameron Bridge Rd W
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Merton Musser
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Billings, MT 59104
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Fax: 406-652-2271
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Bill Fogarty
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Fax: 406-782-8510
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Website: www.portofmontana.org
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Port of Northern Montana
Larry Bonderud
112 1st St S
Shelby, MT 59474
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Fax: 406-434-2761
E-mail: tcneta@shelby.mt.us
Website: www.pnmshelby.com
Providing transportation for ag products throughout Montana.

Olson Auction Services
Marvin J. Olson
PO Box 402
Glasgow, MT 59230
Phone: 406-228-2620

Radiant Engineering Inc.
Tim Border
501 E Peach St # A
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-587-3442
Fax: 406-587-1617
E-mail:
radiant@radiantengineering.com
Website:
www.radiantengineering.com
Provide hot water heating systems for a variety of applications. We also have solar powered watering systems, energy systems and other applications. We have a full range of engineering services to support these products.

Range Management Services
Wayne Burleson
332 N Stillwater Rd
Absarokee, MT 59001
Phone: 406-328-6808
E-mail: rutbuster@montana.net
Website:
www.pasturemanagement.com
We are a range management consulting firm specializing in ranch management, fencing, pasture monitoring and improvement ideas.

Redman Auctions & Trading Post
Gary or Marie Redman
521 Round Butte Rd W
Ronan, MT 59864
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Fax: 406-676-2491
E-mail: henry-
redman@stignatius.net
Redman Auctions, antiques, farms, estate liquidations. No sale too large or too small. Consignment Auctions, Sundays 1:00 p.m.

RLK Hydro Inc.
Marc M. Spratt
484 N Main St, PO Box 1579
Kalispell, MT 59903
Phone: 406-752-2025
800-406-1669
Fax: 406-257-4125
E-mail: info@rlkhydro.com
Website: www.rlkhydro.com
RLK Hydro Inc. specializes in surface water restoration, water rights, irrigation, watershed analysis, hydrology, engineering, environmental consulting, stream channel design, pond design, wetlands mapping, bank and slope stabilization, etc.

Standard Nutrition
1100 Stuckey Rd
Great Falls, MT 59404
Phone: 406-268-0485
Fax: 406-452-0687
Website:
www.standardnutrition.com

Triangle Ag-Services
Mark Heiken
PO Box 1476
Fort Benton, MT 59442
Phone: 406-622-3887
Fax: 406-662-5187
E-mail: mark@triangleag.com
Triangle specializes in the sale of GPS products for agricultural use. This includes services, training and products for precision agriculture.

United Agri Products
Neil Gallagher
1420 Minnesota Ave
Billings, MT 59105
Phone: 800-283-5505
406-252-5196
Fax: 406-256-5196
E-mail: neil.gallagher@uap.com
Website: www.conagrafoods.com & www.UAP.com
Other Locations: Great Falls, Miles City, Hardin, Ryegate, Belgrade, Sidney, Havre, Collins, Moore
We provide consulting with feed and crop protection and are a cutsom feed manufacturerer.

Western Groundwater Services
Mark Cunnane
6595 Bear Claw Ln
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-585-5947
Fax: 406-522-8653
Water planning and management, water rights, water development.

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A. Robert Thorson
1885 East Side Hwy
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406-961-3471
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E-mail: adkinstractorparts.net
Website:
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406-932-4279
Fax: 406-932-5672
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Helena, MT 59624
Phone: 406-4574038
888-451-4038
Fax: 406-457-4035
Other Locations: Butte

Western Agri Financial
Lon E. Morers
PO Box 2000
Billings, MT 59103
Phone: 406-896-8300
Fax: 406-896-8120
Other Locations: Statewide
Financial consulting (21 year ag lender) mortgage banking, (ag real estate loans), real estate broker (ranch and recreational).

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Miles City, MT 59301
Phone: 406-234-7937
Fax: 406-234-4197
Agricultural loan packaging, farm and ranch financial consulting, farm and ranch bookkeeping.

Government Services

Montana Dept. of Agriculture
PO Box 200201
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: 406-444-3144
Fax: 406-444-5409
E-mail: agr@state.mt.us
Website: www.agr.state.mt.us

Montana Dept. of Commerce
301 S Park, PO Box 200501
Helena, MT 59620-0501
Phone: 406-841-2707
E-mail: apoole@state.mt.us
Website: www.commerce.state.mt.us

Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
Phone: 406-444-2544
Fax: 406-444-4386
E-mail: deq@state.mt.us
Website: www.deq.state.mt.us

Montana Dept. of Fish Wildlife & Parks
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: 406-444-2535
Fax: 406-444-4952
Website: www.fwp.state.mt.us

Montana Dept. of Labor & Industry
PO Box 1728
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: 406-444-9091
Fax: 406-444-1394
Website: www.dli.state.mt.us

Montana Dept. of Livestock
PO Box 202001
Helena, MT 59620-2001
Phone: 406-444-7323
Fax: 406-444-1929
Website: www.liv.state.mt.us

Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation
1625 11th Ave
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: 406-444-2074
Fax : 406-444-2684
Website: www.dnrc.state.mt.us

Montana Dept. of Public Health & Human Services
PO Box 200101
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: 406-444-5622
Fax: 406-444-1970
Website: www.dphhs.state.mt.us

Montana Dept. of Revenue
PO Box 5805
Helena, MT 59604
Phone: 406-444-1900
Fax: 406-444-3696
Website:
www.discoveringmontana.com/revenue

Montana Dept. of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: 406-444-6201
Fax: 406-444-7643
Website: www.mdt.state.mt.us

Montana Office of the Secretary of State
Room 260, Capitol
PO Box 202801
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: 406-444-2034
Fax: 406-444-3976
E-mail: sos@state.mt.us
Website: http://sos.state.mt.us/css/index.asp

Montana State Grain Lab
821 17th St N, PO Box 1397
Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: 406-452-9561
Fax: 406-761-2141

Montana Wheat & Barley Committee
750 6th St SW Ste 204
Great Falls, MT 59404
Phone: 406-761-7732
Fax: 406-761-7851
Website: Http://wbc.agr.state.mt.us
The Montana Wheat and Barley Committee (MWBC) is the producer funded and directed check-off organization for wheat and barley growers in the state. The MW&BC is attached to the Montana Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes.

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Star Rte 36 Box 43
Havre, MT 59501-7751
Phone: 406-265-6115
Fax: 406-265-8288
E-mail: donalda@montana.edu
Website: ag.montana.edu/narc
Agriculture Research.

Southern Ag Research Center
748 Railroad Ave
Huntley, MT 59307
Phone: 406-348-3400
Fax: 406-348-3410
Website: www.sarc.montana.edu
Agricultural research center of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station serving south central Montana.

USDA Agricultural Research Service Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory
243 Fort Keogh Rd
Miles City, MT 59301
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Fax: 406-232-8209
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Fax: 406-587-6887
E-mail: randy.johnson@mt.usda.gov
Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/mt/
Other Locations: 49 Counties
FSA delivers various government programs to Montana's farmers and ranchers.

USDA, NASS, Montana Agricultural Statistics Service
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Helena, MT 59626
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800-835-2612
Fax: 406-441-1250
E-mail: nass-mt@nass.usda.gov
Website: www.nass.usda.gov/mt/homepage.htm

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Federal Building, Room 443
10 E Babcock St
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-587-6811
Fax: 406-587-6761
E-mail: dave.white@mt.usda.gov
Other Locations: Local offices in every county in Montana
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PO Box 850
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Fax: 406-585-2565
Website: www.usda.gov/rus

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Fax: 406-727-2718

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Harrison, MT 59735
Phone: 406-685-3425
Fax: 406-385-3429

Hi-Line Grain Co. LLC
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4630 Hiline Dr
Shelby, MT 59474
Fax: 406-432-2871
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Fax: 406-455-1589
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Website: www.montanamilling.com
Other Locations: Conrad

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Fax: 406-771-0413
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Website: www.montanamilling.com
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Produce organic and conventional, flours, cleaned grains, flakes, mixes, cracked grains, brans and meals. Other products with the following grains: red wheat, white wheat, soft white wheat, barley, rye, triticale, oats, spelts, soybeans, millet, kamut, buckwheat, corn, flax and durum.

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Fax: 406-455-1589
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Fax: 406-455-1589
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Produce organic and conventional flours, cleaned grains, flakes, mixes, cracked grains, brans and meals. Other products with the following grains: red wheat, white wheat, soft white wheat, barley, rye, triticale, oats, spelts, soybeans, millet, kamut, buckwheat, corn, flax and durum.

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Montana Department of Agirculture

Mission Statement

The mission of the Montana Department of Agriculture is to protect, enhance, and develop all agriculture in Montana; to encourage and promote production and marketing for agriculture and allied industries; and to provide protection for producers and consumers through administration and enforcement of statutes established by Montana's legislature.

W. Ralph Peck, Director
Montana Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 200201
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-3144
Fax: (406) 444-5409
agr@state.mt.us
http://www.agr.state.mt.us

Agricultural Development Division-Rural Development

The Agricultural Development Division (ADD) is responsible for administering programs directed at promoting and enhancing Montana agriculture. The Division includes the Rural Development Bureau, Agriculture Marketing and Business Development Bureau, Montana State Grain Lab, Agricultural Statistics, and the Wheat and Barley Committee. Additionally, various industry councils and boards are attached to the Agricultural Development Division.

Agricultural Statistics

Statewide agricultural statistics and projections are developed through a Federal/State cooperative agreement and then made available in a comprehensive agricultural statistics bulletin and grain movement summary along with other production, price and income reports.

Montana State Grain Lab

The Montana State Grain Lab is located in Great Falls and operates the only official USDA-Federal Grain Inspection Service grain-grading laboratory in the state of Montana. The lab provides unbiased grain grading, analytical services, and oil seed analysis to the state's grain industry.

Montana Wheat & Barley Committee
Scientific and practical research in all phases of wheat and barley culture, production, and marketing is administered under the guidelines and policies developed by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

Rural Development Bureau
Also a part of the division are the State Hail Insurance Program that insures any type of crop grown in Montana from losses caused by hail damage, and the Agriculture Finance Program that provides grants and lower interest rate loans for rural youth, rural youth organizations and other qualified farmers and ranchers.

Montana State Hail Insurance Program

Montana Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 200201
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-2402
Fax: (406) 444-9442
agr@state.mt.us
http://www.agr.state.mt.us/programs/add/hail.shtml

The Montana State Hail Insurance Program was enacted in 1917 to provide input cost hail insurance coverage on any crop grown in Montana. Throughout the years the program has, and continues to provide a valuable service to the agricultural producers of Montana.

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Growth Through Agriculture Program Management
On behalf of the Agriculture Development Council, AMBD staff provides day to day administrative and operations support for the Growth Through Agriculture Program. Services provided include contract management, loan review, site visits, performance monitoring, audit, and program outreach. AMBD staff also provides assistance to program applicants in meeting their project goals and objectives.

Agricultural Business Development
AMBD staff provides business development assistance to industry members and local economic development organizations. Services offered include basic business planning and development assistance, agriculture economic development and assistance, legal and regulatory liaison assistance, and project coordination assistance.

Industry and Commodity Development
AMBD staff provides industry and commodity development assistance to industry groups and economic development organizations. Services offered include research and development of trade opportunities, project coordination on behalf of industry groups or teams, and preliminary feasibility research, specific to an agricultural industry or commodity area.

International Marketing Assistance
AMBD staff provides international marketing assistance to members of Montana's food, value-added agricultural products and livestock industries. Services offered include access to federal financial assistance for international marketing, assistance in entering international target markets, product promotion, regulatory assistance, and promotional campaign development and execution.

Domestic Marketing Assistance
AMBD staff provides domestic marketing assistance to members of Montana's food, value-added agricultural products and livestock industries. Services offered include market planning assistance and market plan review, market research and access to key contacts within target market segments, trade show participation assistance, and promotional campaign development and execution.

Agricultural Sciences Division

The Agricultural Sciences Division (ASD) provides agricultural, public, and environmental services and protection through administration of the Montana laws and rules in the areas of Pesticides, Agricultural Chemical Ground Water Protection, Noxious Weed Control, Feeds, Fertilizers, Seed, Grain Commodity Dealers, Public Warehousemen, Nurseries, Produce, Mint, Apiculture, Alfalfa Leafcutting Bees, and pest management consulting, survey, and quarantines. Cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provide services and jurisdiction in the areas of interstate and international movement of plant materials and produce, monitoring of firms for animal drug use, and regulation of pesticide sales, use, and production in Montana. The Agricultural Sciences Division is comprised of three bureaus.

Field Services Bureau
The Field Services Bureau provides enforcement of laws and regulations related to pesticides, nurseries, produce, feed, fertilizer, grain, pest quarantines and apiaries.

Technical Services Bureau
The Technical Services Bureau provides licensing and registration services for pesticides, pesticide applicators and dealers, feeds, fertilizers, commodities, apiaries; and services in the areas of pesticide education, pest management, ground water protection, noxious weed management, pesticide disposal and special pesticide registration.

Analytical Lab
The Laboratory Bureau provides chemical analytical services for feeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

Montana Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 200201
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-2402
Fax: (406) 444-9442
agr@state.mt.us
http://www.agr.state.mt.us/
programs/add/MGTA.shtml

For more information on grants and loans in connection with the Montana Department of Agriculture please visit http://www.agr.state.mt.us/grants/first.htm or contact the department at (406) 444-2402.

Montana Growth Through Agriculture

The Montana Growth Through Agriculture Act (GTA) and the Montana Agriculture Development Council was established to strengthen and diversify Montana's agricultural industry through activities promoting private/public sector partnerships, to assist in the development of innovative agricultural business organizational improvements and the commercialization and marketing of new agricultural products in order to keep pace with the transforming agricultural industry, and to create new jobs and expand small business opportunities.

The GTA program provides funding through investments and loans that assist Montana agribusinesses develop agricultural ventures and market value-added agricultural products that will improve Montana's economy.

The Agricultural Development Council, the five member council which oversees the Growth Through Agriculture Program, is made up of farmers, ranchers and agricultural business people, as well as the directors of the Montana Department of Agriculture and the Montana Department of Commerce. This ensures a producers' and business perspective, as well as a state government tie. The Council is attached to the Montana Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes only.

Rural Assistance Loan Program

The Rural Assistance Loan Program provides loans to producers with modest financial investments in agriculture. These loans to agricultural enterprises provide financial experience and assist in the economic growth and welfare of Montana agriculture.

Junior Agriculture Loan Program

The Junior Agriculture Loan Program was developed to assist the youngest members of Montana's community in financing agricultural projects; especially those unable to obtain financing from other sources. Such projects may involve crop and livestock production, custom farming, marketing and distribution, processing, and other financially feasible projects. Loans are made from the assets of the former Montana Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.

Beginning Farm/Ranch Loan Program

The Montana Beginning Farmer/Rancher Loan Program is a tax-exempt bond program designed to assist beginning farmers and ranchers in acquiring agricultural property in Montana at lower interest rates.

The program enables lenders, individuals, partnerships, corporations, and other entities to receive federally tax-exempt interest with respect to a loan or contract sale made to a beginning farmer/rancher. After arranging the loan or sales contract, the financial institution will obtain a federally tax-exempt bond in the amount of the loan or unpaid balance from the Montana Agriculture Loan Authority (the "Authority"). The loan and its collateral will be assigned to the financial institution as security for the bond. In the case of a contract sale, the contract will be entered into by the Authority, and the financial institution will receive the bond as evidence of the Authority's obligations under the contract. The Authority's right, title, and interest in the contract will then be assigned to the beginning farmer/rancher who assumes payment obligations of the Authority under the contract.

Building Our Montana Communities Grants

Grants are awarded to the FFA Chapters that have shown outstanding BOMC projects. The projects must accomplish specific learning, participation, and achievement objectives such as facilitating an understanding among students of the principles and fundamentals of community development; assist youth to become knowledgeable of and familiar with programs and resources of local, state, and federal agencies that help communities solve problems; futher the economic development of agriculture and/or agribusiness and natural resources in the local community, etc. Grants are awarded once per year.

Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Program

The Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Program was established by the 1985 Montana Legislature to provide funding for the development and implementation of weed management programs; provide for research and development of innovative weed management techniques, including biological control; and to support educational and other research projects that benefit Montana citizens. The grant program is designed to assist counties, local communities, researchers, and educators in their efforts to solve a variety of weed problems in Montana.

Rural Community Development Grant Program

The purpose of the Rural Community Development Grant Program is to help fund community development projects conducted by rural youth organizations, such as FFA and 4-H. The goal is to encourage rural youth to conduct projects that will improve the quality of life in Montana communities and foster the interaction between the rural and urban parts of these communities.

Montana Department of Commerce

Mark Simonich, Director
Montana Department of Commerce
301 South Park Avenue
P.O. Box 200501
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 841-2700
Fax: (406) 841-2701
msimonich@state.mt.us
http://www.commerce.state.mt.us/

Mission Statement

To enhance economic prosperity in Montana by working with our community partners to foster community led diversification of our economy; and to maintain and improve our infrastructure, housing and facilities.

Business Resources Division

301 South Park Avenue
P.O. Box 200501
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 841-2730
Fax: (406) 841-2731
gmorehouse@state.mt.us
http://www.commerce.state.mt.us/BRD/BRD_Home.html

The Business Resources Division is comprised of a variety of programs aimed at improving, enhancing, and diversifying Montana's economic and business climate. Working closely with the private sector, economic and community development partners, other department divisions, state agencies, and federal and private programs, the division strives to enhance the economic base of Montana through business creation, expansion, and retention efforts. Technical and financial assistance, and relationships with local development groups, chambers, and similar organizations provide a springboard to help Montana communities develop their full economic potential.

Finance Information Center

(406) 841-2732
Fax: (406) 841-2731
http://www.mtfinanceonline.com

One aspect of the Finance Information Center is a web site dedicated to providing information on public finance programs in Montana. The Finance Information Center has created and released the website at www.mtfinanceonline.com, which provides a one-stop reference source for virtually all state, federal and local development based public finance programs. The site includes information and direct links to web sites for programs that provide financing to businesses, local and regional development corporations, local governments, tribal governments, and other interested parties. In addition, the site includes links to financing sources for infrastructure, housing, business needs, development corporation operations, and also to technical assistance resources that can provide assistance to applicants. The primary purpose of this program is to provide technical assistance to businesses for the purpose of obtaining financing for start-ups, expansions, attracting businesses from out of state, and retention projects.

Regional Development

(406) 841-2732
Fax: (406) 841-2731
http://www.commerce.state.mt.us/BRD/BRD_RD.html

Montana is divided into five regions with a Regional Development Officer (RDO) assigned to each area as a representative of the Montana Department of Commerce. The RDOs live in their regions and are a resource to businesses, local development corporations, and communities in the area. The program serves as an access point to all relevant department resources, as well as other relevant business and community development resources.

Regional Development Areas

Northcentral
Randy Hanson
48 2nd Avenue, Rm 211
P.O. Box 311
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 262-9579
Fax: (406) 262-9581
hanson@ibic.org
Serving: Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Petroleum, Fergus, Judith Basin, Chouteau, Cascade, Teton, and Pondera counties.

Southwest
Terry Dimock
301 Sth Park
P.O. Box 200501
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-2787
Fax: (406) 444-1872
tdimock@state.mt.us
Serving: Lewis & Clark, Powell, Granite, Deer Lodge, Jefferson, Broadwater, Silver Bow, Beaverhead, Madison, and Gallatin counties.

West
Eric Hanson
2 Main Street, #202
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 257-2259
Fax: (406) 257-2259
erjhanson@centurytel.net
Serving: Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Missoula, Mineral, and Ravalli counties.

Southcentral
Al Jones
2004 Miles Avenue
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 962-3914
Fax: (406) 655-0899
aljonesrdo@attbi.com
Serving: Meagher, Park, Yellowstone National Park, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Musselshell, Golden Valley, and Wheatland counties.

Eastern
Tod Kasten
P.O. Box 520
Circle, MT 59215
(406) 485-3374
Cell Phone: (406) 431-1334
Fax: (406) 485-3376
kranches@midrivers.com
Serving: Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prarie, Wibaux, Fallon, Carter, Powder River, Custer, Treasure, Rosebud, and Garfield counties.

CDBG Economic Development Program

(406) 841-2733
Fax: (406) 841-2731
http://www.commerce.state.mt.us/BRD/BRD_CDBG.html

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) loans to businesses are designed to stimulate economic activity primarily by assisting the private sector in retaining or creating employment for low and moderate income individuals. These funds are to be used for local development projects where a funding gap exists and alternative sources of financing for the project are not adequate. Funds are intended to compliment conventional sources. This program reviews applications for project funds on a continuous open-cycle basis as long as the funds remain available. Projects are selected by considering the overall feasibility, long-range economic impact, and the number of jobs that are made available to low and moderate income persons.

Trade and International Relations Bureau

(406) 841-2704
Fax: (406) 841-2701
http://www.madeinmontanausa.com/

The mission of the Office of Trade and International Relations is to identify opportunities for worldwide and domestic trade and to provide representation, information and technical assistance. The program helps Montana businesses pursue trade opportunities for the purpose of diversifying their customer base and increase the sales of Montana products and services.

Micro Business Finance Program

(406) 841-2751
Fax: (406) 841-2728
http://www.commerce.state.mt.us/BRD/BRD_MBFP.html

Montana's Micro Business Development Corporations (MBDCs) are designed to work with a company step-by-step, brick-by-brick, to assist in constructing a plan that will help build a foundation for success. This program provides the financing and the technical assistance that could help start or expand a business enterprise.

- **What is Micro Business?**
  A Micro Business is a Montana-based company with:
  - ·Fewer than ten (10) full-time employees.
  - ·Gross annual revenue of less than $500,000.

- **What are the Micro Business Development Corporations**?
  Most new jobs are created by micro businesses. To meet the needs of these businesses, in 1991, Montana's 52nd Legislature passed the Micro Business Finance Act. The program now has a statewide network of non-profit agencies certified by the state to administer revolving loan funds lending directly to businesses. These loan funds make loans available for economically sound business projects that may be unable to obtain adequate commercial financing.

- **Loans for startup or expansion**
  Qualified applicants may borrow up to $35,000 although the typical loan size is much less. The loan proceeds may be used for working capital and fixed assets. Credit decisions are based on a business plan noting repayment ability, a credit report, and management capability. Because the MBDC works closely with each applicant, criteria such as collateral and credit history are evaluated on an individual basis. Terms and conditions of each loan depend on the applicant's need, the business plan feasibility, and the useful life of the collateral.

- **Micro Business Technical Assistance Program**
  The Micro Business Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) uses technology to offer classes, workshops, and roundtable discussions in rural areas using video or audio conferencing and the Internet. The focus of MTAP training is on basic business skills for people with little experience in business. People interested in the training can access it on their own or they can work through the materials with the help of a local technical assistance provider.

The following lists the local MBDC organization contact information:

Region I-Kalispell
NWMT Human Resources, Inc.
P.O. Box 8300
Kalispell, MT 59904
(406) 758-5404

Region II-Missoula
Montana Community Dev. Corp.
127 North Higgins
Missoula, MT 59802
(406) 728-9234

Region III-Butte
Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc.
305 West Mercury, Suite 211
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 782-7333

Region V-Helena
Gateway Economic Dev. Corp.
1015 Poplar
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 447-1510

Region VII-Havre
Bear Paw Dev. Corp. of
Northern MT
#48 Second Avenue
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-9226

Region VIII-Lewistown
District VI HRDC
300 First Avenue North, Suite 203
Lewistown, MT 59457
(406) 538-7488

Region IX-Billings
District VII HRDC
#7 North 31st
Billings, MT 59103
(406) 547-4710

Region X-Wolf Point
Great Northern Dev. Corp.
233 Cascade Street
Wolf Point, MT 59201
(406) 653-259

NxLeveL Training

110 East Broadway
Missoula, MT 59802
(406) 721-3663
http://nxlevel.itrc.umt.edu/

NxLeveL Entrepreneurial Training Programs, offered in over twenty locations around the state, are in-depth training courses for entrepreneurs and business owners. "NxLeveL for Entrepreneurs" is a 12-session course designed to produce a business plan, in addition to helping businesses reach the next level of success. "Tilling the soil of Opportunity" is a 12-session course designed to assist entrepreneurs and business owners engaged in agriculture. Other courses are available including an online course designed for distance learning. Please contact the NxLeveL coordinator for more information.

Business Technical Assistance

Montana SBDC
(406) 841-2746
Fax: (406) 841-2728

http://www.commerce.state.mt.us/BRD/BRD_SBDC.html

Start-up and expanding small businesses are provided a variety of training, technical assistance, and information through a network of partnerships with local organizations and federal agencies. Included in this network are the Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) that are jointly funded by the Montana Department of Commerce and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). This statewide approach to business development improves the effectiveness and efficiency of both state and local business assistance efforts.

Small Business Development Center Regional Service Centers

Billings
Big Sky Economic Development Authority
Granite Towers, 222 North 32nd Street
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 254-6014
Fax: (406) 256-6877

Bozeman
Gallatin Development Corporation
222 East Main, Suite 102
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-3113
Fax: (406) 587-9565

Great Falls
Great Falls Development Authority, Inc.
710 1st Avenue North; P.O. Box 2568
Great Falls, MT 59403
(406) 453-8834
Fax: (406) 454-2995

Butte
Southwest Montana Headwaters RC&D
305 West Mercury, Suite 211
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 782-7333
Fax: (406) 782-9675

Colstrip
Southeastern Montana Development Corporation
6200 Main; P.O. Box 1935
Colstrip, MT 59323
(406) 748-2990
Fax: (406) 748-2990

Havre
Bear Paw Development Corporation
48 2nd Avenue, Ryan Bldg.
P.O. Box 170
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-4945
Fax: (406-265-5602

Kalispell
Kalispell Area Chamber of Commerce
15 Depot Park
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 758-2802
Fax: (406) 758-2805

Wolf Point
Great Northern Development Corporation
233 Cascade Street
Wolf Point, MT 59201
(406) 653-2590
Fax: (406) 653-1840

Missoula
Montana Community Development Corporation
110 East Broadway, 2nd Floor
Missoula, MT 59802
(406) 728-9234
Fax: (406) 542-6671

Helena
Gateway Economic Development Corporation
1015 Poplar
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 447-1512
Fax: (406) 447-1514

Department of Commerce Publications

In order to inform the public and promote Montana businesses to audiences both inside and outside the state, the Economic Development Division produces and distributes several informational publications.

- A Guide to Grants for Community Planning and Development Projects in Montana – (406) 841-2700
- "Working Together for Montana's Future" brochure – (406) 841-2730
- Made In Montana Products Directory – (406) 841-2700
- Montana Manufacturers Directory – (406) 841-2700

Montana Secretary of State

Montana Office of the Secretary of State
Room 260, Capitol
P.O. Box 202801
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-2034
Fax: (406) 444-3976
sos@state.mt.us
http://sos.state.mt.us/css/index.asp

"Our goals are to provide efficient, professional, and courteous service and to make Montana a great place to do business."
– Secretary of State Bob Brown

Business Services

(406) 444-3665
Fax: (406) 444-4196
http://sos.state.mt.us/css/BSB/BSB.asp

Flourishing businesses are critical to the economic vitality and stability of Montana. The Business Services Bureau is committed to working in close partnership with entrepreneurs who want to start, expand, or close a business in the state, as well as with out-of-state businesses seeking to open offices within Montana.

Specifically, the bureau is responsible for registering businesses and maintaining private-sector documents directly related to business. These include such documents as corporate charters, applications for assumed business names, and registration of trademarks.

How to Start a Business

For more information on business structures, filing procedures, associated costs, or other common questions visit http://sos.state.mt.us/css/index.asp

Determine the structure of your business:

Sole Proprietorship

A single individual or a married couple acting as one owns this type of business. A sole proprietor has total control of and responsibility for his or her business, receives all profits, and can make important decisions quickly. The sole proprietor is also responsible for all taxes and liabilities of the business.

General Partnership

A partnership is an association of two or more people acting as co-owners of a for-profit business. Individuals may create a partnership by oral or written agreement. Under this arrangement, the partners share personal liability for all claims against the partnership, as well as share all profits and losses. Profits are taxed as personal income for each individual partner.

Limited Partnership

A limited partnership is more closely regulated than a general partnership. There must be at least one general partner who manages the business and who is fully and personally responsible for claims against the business. In addition, there are investors who play no part in the management of the business and whose liability for the business is limited to the extent of their investment.

Limited Liability Partnership

A limited liability partnership operates much like a general partnership, except none of the partners can be held personally liable for claims against the business. Partners are not liable for the errors or negligence of the other partners or their employees unless they themselves are supervising, directing, or involved in the action for which a claim has been filed.

Corporation

A corporation is a more complex form of business organization. It exists apart from its owners or shareholders and is a legal entity in its own right. As a separate entity, it has its own rights, privileges, and liabilities apart from the individuals who form it.

A corporation has shareholders who invest money in the business and therefore own it. The shareholders hold an annual meeting at which they elect a board of directors. The board makes policy decisions for the

company and selects the corporate officers who manage the company's daily affairs.

A corporation affords limited liability to its shareholders and can continue on after the death of or transfer of shares by one or more of the owners. A corporation pays taxes on its profits, and its shareholders pay taxes on dividends.

There are several types of corporations; some operate for profit and others are not for profit. An attorney can advise you as to which type best suits your needs.

Limited Liability Company

This form of business offers both the protections from personal liability of a corporation and the favorable tax treatment of a partnership. It provides for flexibility in the contribution and distribution of assets.

Under this type of structure, you need not hold annual meetings, but you do need to file Articles of Organization and annual reports with the Secretary of State's office.

Reserve a business name (optional)

Once you have selected a name for your business, you need to find out whether you can use it. Under state law, you may not adopt a business name that is the same as or indistinguishable from that of another business. To find out whether a business name may be available, call the Business Services Bureau of the Secretary of State's office, (406) 444-3665. Reserving a name is necessary only if you are not yet prepared to file the organizational documents. You can reserve a name for 120 days as you set up your business.

File appropriate documents (according to business structure)

- Application for Registration of an Assumed Business Name. File this form with the Secretary of State if you plan to start a sole proprietorship, general partnership, or association. Once approval is given, your business name will be registered with the state for five years.

- Certificate of Limited Partnership. Both domestic and foreign limited partnerships must file in order to do business in Montana.

- Registration of Limited Liability Partnership.

- Articles of Incorporation. These are required of corporations or individuals who wish to do business in Montana through a corporation. Nonprofit corporations must also file Articles of Incorporation.

- Articles of Organization. File these with the Secretary of State's office if you want to form a limited liability company.

Apply for tax ID numbers, professional licenses, local licenses, and worker's compensation

The Internal Revenue Service requires every business to have a federal tax identification number. To obtain one, call the IRS toll-free at (801) 620-7645. To apply for a state tax ID number, contact the Montana Department of Revenue at (406) 444-6900.

Under state law, some professions—such as architects, barbers, chiropractors, and dentists—must be licensed. To determine whether you need a professional license, contact the Professional and Occupational Licensing Bureau of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry at (406) 841-2300.

Every city and county has specific requirements about doing business within its jurisdiction. Call or visit your county courthouse or city offices to find out what particular requirements exist in your area.

If you are planning to hire employees, find out what kind of insurance coverage you are required to provide under state Workers' Compensation laws. You can get this information from the Montana Department of Labor and Industry at (406) 444-6541 or toll-free at 1 (800) 332-6102.

File an annual report

If you have a corporation or limited liability company, you must file an annual report to stay in good standing with the Secretary of State's office. The report is due each year by April 15 and must be accompanied by a $10 filing fee. Businesses that file after that date will be charged a penalty.

Montana State University

Montana State University – Bozeman is the state's land grant university, which implies a special obligation to assist Montana's economic, social and cultural well-being. Land grant universities include Extension and Outreach services to carry out research and development needs. MSU campuses at Billings and Havre are also committed to assisting economic development.

College of Engineering
Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC)
Steve Holland, Director
313 Roberts Hall
P.O. Box 173800
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717
(800) MEP-4MFG {637-4634}
(406) 994-3812
Fax: (406) 994-3391
mmec@coe.montana.edu
www.mtmanufacturingcenter.com

MISSION STATEMENT

To increase the competitiveness of Montana manufacturers through direct, unbiased engineering and managerial assistance in partnership with other public and private resources.

- An MMEC engineer working on a particular project will find, direct, and coordinate the proper mix of resources and skills needed to provide the best assistance in growing and improving a business.
- The MMEC engineer's role is to understand one's business and define manufacturing problems, act as an advocate, and respond to needs in a timely manner.
- MMEC engineers are ready to assist in identifying opportunities for improvement in a manner consistent with a company's culture and goals.

MMEC roles:

- Like an owner knows his or her business, MMEC knows manufacturing. Together, MMEC and an interested company can implement real, workable solutions.

- MMEC demonstrates how to obtain the highest output from a company's organization, people, equipment, building, and capital.

- MMEC will help design and implement plans that yield lower costs, higher production, and increased product quality, while meeting customer demands.

- Solutions and recommendations are based only on meeting manufacturer's needs in the most practical and cost effective manner.

MMEC Project Process:

- An MMEC engineer will come to a business that has made a request and talk with them or their key people. Together, they determine the needs and identify areas in which MMEC can provide assistance to improve their system.

- If hands-on work is needed, MMEC will develop a proposal specifying time frames, services, costs, and direct benefits. Depending on a company's needs, an engineer may help locate information needed or arrange for the company to participate in seminars, training, or industry networks.

- An MMEC engineer will manage a project from start to finish by coordinating the work of MMEC and outside experts, if required, while ensuring the project meets the company's expectations.

- A company being assisted by MMEC will receive monthly updates on the status of the project and opportunities to offer input and measure results throughout the project. MMEC engineers work directly with a company and its staff to ensure satisfaction.

MMEC Regional Offices

Billings
Big Sky Economic Development
222 North 32nd Street
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 256-6871
Fax: (406) 256-6877

Bozeman
University Technical Assistance Program
315 Roberts Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-3812
Fax: (406) 994-3391

Bozeman
MSU TechLink Center
900 Technology Boulevard
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 994-7732
Fax: (406) 994-7701

Helena
Montana Department of Commerce
301 S. Park
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 841-2745
Fax: (406) 841-2731

Kalispell
The Northwest Business Center
218 Main Street
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 758-5478
Fax: (406) 257-7283

Missoula
School of Business Administration
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-4009
Fax: (406) 243-2086

MSU Contacts

Campuses of Montana State University have designated contact offices to assist and expedite requests for assistance. These contact offices will help individuals get the assistance needed from their respective universities.

MSU-Bozeman
Outreach and Extension
(406) 994-6647
Fax: (406) 994-1756
http://extn.msu.montana.edu/

MSU-Billings
College of Professional Studies
and Life Long Learning
(406) 657-2203
Fax: (406) 657-2254
cpsinfo@msubillings.edu

MSU-Northern
Continuing Education and Summer Sessions
(800) 662-6132, ext. 3730

MSU Extension Service's Community Development Program

Community Development Specialist
(406) 994-2962
Fax: (406) 994-5417
acxds@montana.edu

Assist communities with planning for business start-ups, farm and ranch recreation businesses, business retention, tourism development, and long-range strategic planning.

University Technical Assistance Program

MSU – Bozeman
(406) 994-3812
mmec@coe.montana.edu

Provides technical and engineering assistance to developing manufacturing firms.

Montana Local Development Organizations and Montana Tribal Information

Montana Local Development Organizations

Montana local development organizations provide economic development assistance in their respective areas. For more information, contact your local office.

Montana Economic Developers Association
Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) is a private non-profit organization created to increase the effectiveness of local economic development efforts by acting as a statewide resource for its membership.
http://www.medamembers.org

Montana Tribal Information

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Financial Assistance for Indian Economic Development Projects
Rocky Mountain Region Credit Office
316 North 26th Street
Billings, MT 59101
(406) 247-7963
Fax: (406) 247-7978
http://www.ios.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html

The Indian Finance Act of 1974 established the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Loan Guarantee Program. Any lender regularly engaged in making and servicing loans may obtain a guarantee. The borrower must be a federally recognized tribe or a member of such a tribe. The Indian-owned business must be on or near a reservation. There is no loan limit for tribes. Anyone interested in more information about the guarantee program should contact the local Bureau of Indian Affairs office nearest the location of the business.

Tribal Business Information Centers

http://www.sba.gov/naa/tribes

In conjunction with the Small Business Administration, each of Montana's seven reservations hosts a Tribal Business Information Center (TBIC). The TBICs include a reference library, video center, computer hardware and software designed specifically for small businesses, and free on-site business counseling.

United States Department of Agriculture

Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

10 East Babcock
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-6965
Fax: (406) 587-6761
tdodge@mt.usda.gov
http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/RCCD/rcnd_2.html

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) was developed to help local citizens address problems in their areas by bringing together a cross section of local leaders with a variety of knowledge, expertise, and experience. With the aid of their coordinators, Montana's seven RC&D areas have addressed a broad spectrum of projects through the years. Each area is different, but this program has provided citizens with a forum to address their concerns and solve their problems on a local grassroots basis.

State and Regional RC&D Offices

Beartooth RC&D
604 West Front Street
P.O. Drawer D
Joliet, MT 59041
(406) 962-3914
Fax: (406) 962-3995

Bitterroot RC&D
1709 North 1st Street
Hamilton, MT 59840
(406) 363-5450
Fax: (406) 363-5011

Central Montana RC&D
34 - 3rd Avenue West
P.O. Box 656
Roundup, MT 59072
(406) 323-2755
Fax: (406) 323-1548

Eastern Plains RC&D
123 West Main
Sidney, MT 59270
(406) 433-5024
Fax: (406) 433-5306

Headwaters RC&D
305 West Mercury
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 782-7333
Fax: (406) 782-9675

North Central Montana RC&D
1125 Oilfield Avenue
P.O. Box 919
Shelby, MT 59474
(406) 434-9161
Fax: (406) 434-9161

Northwest Regional RC&D
P.O. Box 704
Libby, MT 59923
(406) 293-8885
Fax: (406) 293-3222

Rocky Mountain RC&D
3710 Fallon Street, Suite B
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 522-4090
Fax: (406) 522-1272

USDA Rural Development

P.O. Box 850
Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 585-2580
Fax: (406) 585-2565
http://www.usda.gov/rus

USDA rural development financial programs support such essential public facilities and services as water and sewer systems, housing, health clinics, emergency service facilities and electric and telephone service. They work to promote economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks and community-managed lending pools. The rural development offices offer technical assistance and information to help agricultural and other cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their member services. Additionally, they provide technical assistance to help communities undertake community empowerment programs.

Rural Business Cooperative Service

900 Technology Boulevard, Suite B
P.O. Box 850
Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 585-2540
Fax: (406) 585-2565
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/

The Rural Business Cooperative Service (RBS) provides financial and technical assistance to emerging and expanding rural businesses and cooperatives. RBS staff provides this assistance through different programs designed to target various aspects of business creation and management.

Guaranteed Loan Program

The Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan program provides up to an 80% guarantee on traditional lender loans to businesses. The primary purpose of the program is to create and maintain employment and improve the economic climate of the rural community by providing the financial backing for new and expanding businesses.

By expanding the lending capability of private lenders in rural areas, the loan guarantee program helps the lenders make and service quality loans that provide lasting community benefits. Benefits to businesses include increased flexibility on rates and terms of local lender loans.

Cooperative Services

RBS staff can help rural residents who are trying to form new agricultural or non-agricultural cooperative businesses. RBS can also help to improve the operations of existing cooperatives by providing technical assistance, conducting cooperative related research, and producing information products to promote public understanding of cooperatives.

Anyone interested in forming a new cooperative or improving an existing marketing, purchasing, or service cooperative can receive assistance with informal feasibility studies and the creation and implementation of a business plan.

Intermediary Relending Program

The purpose of the Intermediary Relending Program is to finance business facilities and community development projects in rural areas. This is achieved through loans made by the RBS to intermediaries. Intermediaries relend funds to ultimate recipients for business facilities or community development. Intermediaries establish revolving loan funds so collections from loans made to ultimate recipients in excess of necessary operating expenses and debt payments will be used for more loans to ultimate recipients.

Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program

The RBS makes grants under the Rural Business Enterprise Grants Program (RBEG) to public bodies, private non-profit corporations, and federally recognized Indian tribal groups to finance and facilitate development of small and emerging private business enterprises. The public bodies, private non-profit corporations and federally recognized Indian tribes receive the grant to assist a business. GRANT FUNDS DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO THE BUSINESS.

Rural Business Opportunities Grant Program

The purpose is to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs. This is accomplished by making grants to pay costs of providing economic planning for rural communities, technical assistance for rural businesses, or training for rural entrepreneurs or economic development officials.

Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program

Rural Cooperative Development Grants (RCDG's) are made for establishing and operating centers for cooperative development for the primary purpose of improving the economic condition of rural areas through the development of new cooperatives and improving operations of existing cooperatives. The USDA desires to encourage and stimulate the development of effective cooperative organizations in rural America as a part of its total package of rural development efforts.

Value-Added Producer Grant Program

Value-Added Producer Grant Program provides grants to producers to encourage independent producers of agricultural commodities to process these products increasing their value to end-users. The grants may be used for technical assistance and feasibility studies to determine the validity of such projects. The grants can also be used to provide working capital for those projects that are determined to be feasible.

Montana USDA Rural Development Local Offices

Billings
Building A
1629 Avenue D
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 657-6297, ext. 4
Fax: (406) 657-6294

Bozeman
900 Technology Boulevard, Suite B
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 585-2530
Fax: (406) 585-2565

Glasgow
54062 Highway 2 West
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-4321, ext. 4
Fax: (406) 228-8101

Great Falls
12 3rd Street, North West
Suite 300
Great Falls, MT 59404
(406) 727-7580, ext. 4
Fax: (406) 452-3806

Helena
790 Colleen Street
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-5000, ext. 4
Fax: (406) 449-5008

Kalispell
30 Lower Valley Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-4242, ext. 4
Fax: (406) 755-2270

Missoula
3550 Mullan Road, Suite 106
Missoula, MT 59808
(406) 829-3395, ext. 4
Fax: (406) 829-3437

United States Small Business Administration

Montana District Office
Federal Building
10 West 15th Street, Suite 1100
Helena, MT 59626
(406) 441-1081
Fax: (406) 441-1090
http://www.sba.gov/mt

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers businesses direct and indirect technical assistance for various problems and needs. This is accomplished through counseling and training using a variety of resources and loan programs. To be eligible for SBA assistance, companies must meet federal size and income standards.

How does the SBA guarantee loan program work?

SBA acts like an insurance agency and provides a guarantee to the bank to cover the extraordinary risk associated with lending to small businesses. Since this is a bank loan, applications must be submitted to the bank and monthly loan payments are paid to the bank. The bank is also responsible for closing the loan and disbursing the loan proceeds. SBA's involvement is limited to reviewing the loan application submitted by the bank to assure they meet eligibility and credit standards. SBA provides the bank with a written authorization outlining the conditions of the SBA guarantee; any material changes to this authorization generally require SBA approval. In the event the business fails, SBA may participate in the liquidation of the assets and will share in any losses to the bank.

Loan Programs

SBA has a host of loan programs that are tailored to fit the needs of the small business. For a complete list and description of the loan programs and services, go to http://www.sba.gov/financing/indexloans.html or contact the Montana SBA Office at (800) 776-9144, choose option 2.

Certified Development Companies

The 504 Certified Development Company (CDC) Program provides growing businesses with long-term, fixed-rate financing for major fixed assets, such as land and buildings. A CDC is a non-profit corporation set up to contribute to the economic development of its community or region. CDCs work with the SBA and private sector lenders to provide financing to small businesses. There are about 290 CDCs nationwide, and each CDC covers a specific area. For a list of CDCs in Montana go to http://www.sba.gov/mt/mtcdc.html or contact the Montana SBA Office at (800) 776-9144, choose option 2.

Preferred/Certified Lenders

Certified lenders are those who have been heavily involved in regular SBA loan-guarantee processing and have met certain other criteria. They receive a partial delegation of authority and are given a three-day turnaround by the SBA on their applications (they may also use regular SBA loan processing). Certified lenders account for nearly a third of all SBA business loan guarantees. For a complete list of Preferred and Certified Lenders in Montana go to http://www.sba.gov/mt/plpmt.html or contact the Montana SBA Office at (800) 776-9144, choose option 2.

Approved Micro-Loan Program

The Micro-Loan Program was developed to increase the availability of very small loans to prospective small business borrowers. Under this program, the SBA makes funds available to non-profit intermediaries, who in turn make loans to eligible borrowers in amounts that range from under $100 to a maximum of $25,000. The average loan size is $10,000. Completed applications can usually be processed by the intermediary in less than one week. For information on approved Micro-Loan Participants go to http://www.sba.gov/mt/mtmicro.html or contact the Montana SBA Office at (800) 776-9144, choose option 2.

Service Corps of Retired Executives

Through its Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), SBA draws on the experience and resources of past and present managers to assist the small business community. They help small business managers and owners solve their operating problems through individualized counseling. SCORE volunteers provide guidance, training and straight talk on starting and growing your business. Get free and confidential email counseling today. For a list of SCORE chapters in Montana, go to http://www.sba.gov/mt/mtscore.html or contact the Montana SBA office at (800) 776-9144, option 2.

Business Information Centers

Business Information Centers (BIC) provide free counseling and reference materials. The comprehensive reference library of over 400 books and manuals on how to start and manage a business has a wealth of "how to" information for the entrepreneur. There is a wide variety of information available covering business planning, marketing, operations, personnel, and financial analysis.

A major feature of a BIC, probably the most used, are computers, software, and hardware. State-of-the-art software programs include Microsoft "Office 98," Multimedia MBA, Publisher 98, and Jian Bizplan Builder Interactive. Other special programs include Internet access, International Trade Data Network, Export Expert, census data on CD ROM discs that can be used for research, and a scanner and digital camera for those special projects. For a list of BICs in Montana go to http://www.sba.gov/mt/mtbics.html or contact the Montana SBA Office at (800) 776-9144, option 2.

Women's Business Centers

SBA's network of more than 60 Women's Business Centers (WBC) provide a wide range of services to women entrepreneurs at all levels of business development. Not near a Women's Business Center? Check out the online Women's Business Center at http://www.onlinewbc.org.

Contact the Helena Career Training Institute (CTI), Business Resource Center at (406) 443-0800; the Montana Community Development Corporation in Missoula at (406) 728-9234, ext. 206; or the Montana SBA Office at (800) 776-9144, option 2.

International Trade - Exporting

Information on international trade, exporting information, contacts, and websites; go to http://www.sba.gov/mt/mtit.html or contact the Montana SBA office at (800) 776-9144, option 2.

Minority Enterprise Development

The Minority Enterprise Development Division provides minority small businesses with management and technical assistance for business development and growth. Procurement information and specialized training workshops are scheduled throughout the year. The program is a nine-year business development program for minority-owned businesses. In addition to management and technical assistance, the SBA enters into contracts with federal agencies to assist in the development of participating firms. For more information on business development go to http://www.sba.gov/mt/mtmed.html or contact the Montana SBA Office at 1 (800) 776-9144, option 2.

Business Law Reference Site

Small business owners now have access to legal and regulatory business information at their fingertips through http://www.BusinessLaw.gov, a new web site designed to help manage the burden of complying with laws and regulations.

Business Start Up Kit

A business startup kit is available online at http://www.sba.gov/mt/mtstarttoc.html or to have a kit mailed to you contact the Montana SBA Office at (800) 776-9144, option 2.

Additional Resources

Montana Community Foundation

101 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 211
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 443-8313
Fax: (406) 442-0482
http://www.mtcf.org/

The Montana Community Foundation is a philanthropic service organization through which private assets entrusted by donors are invested to meet the challenges of contemporary life. The foundation supports donors who wish to leave a legacy in Montana, advocates for philanthropic activities, builds and manages endowments, and works with communities to ensure their continued vitality.

Montana Cooperative Development Center

Montana Cooperative Development Center
P.O. Box 200201
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-2402
Fax: (406) 444-9442
agr@state.mt.us

The Montana Cooperative Development Center provides technical business assistance to new and existing cooperatives as part of its mission to enhance economic development through the cooperative form of business. The Center has assisted several groups in obtaining funding as well as providing the necessary expertise to develop a cooperative venture. The Center focuses on projects, which add value to Montana's traditional industries.

Other Sites

Montana World Trade Center
http://www.mwtc.org/

Business Plan Outline
http://www.mtcdc.org/bus_plan.html

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